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# A CANDIDATE'S APPEAL IS ANSWERED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: MAY I address the Democratic Presidential nominee through your columns?

To Candidate Woodrow Wilson: You publicly appeal for my good will and my vote on your record in office. I may therefore with propriety publicly question you upon that record. I know I may do this for you and your party. I know I may do this for "plutocracy." Those are your words.

You may have observed that Candidate Hughes is being constantly questioned upon his official acts by your partisans in the press and in his meetings. You have also observed that he gives those who question him no prompt, direct and courteous replies.

Will you not do as much for an average citizen like me? You do not know me, nor does Mr. Hughes know those who question him. He does not hide behind this excuse, but steps boldly out in the light like a man and answers. Will you not do the same? I shall not be so discourteous as to interrupt your meetings. I will simply ask you some questions which are uppermost and stirring in the minds of a vast number of your countrymen at this time. You have not yet answered them directly.

What the average voter would like to know is this: "How can we tell when you mean what you say?" You claim to be bitterly opposed to "sectionalism" in governmental affairs, but have denounced the orator and mentioned it. And yet you and your party have established it there.

How can you be both for and against it? Sectionalism is not an issue in the North. It has only been mentioned incidentally. We are not worrying about it. But let us glance at a few facts.

Is it not true that all the great controlling committees of Congress are commanded by chairmen from the solid South?

Have these gentlemen not dominated all important legislation since you entered office?

They have made the laws and you have signed them. They have levied the taxes and the North is paying them.

Is it not true that the solid South, which pays but a mere fraction of the income tax, has spent the public money lavishly? Twenty millions for a fertilizer plant in Alabama, eleven millions for an armor plate factory, fifty millions to compete with private ship owners, eighty-five millions for roads, many millions for rivers and harbors and public buildings not needed? Pork, pork, everywhere!

Does not its odor permeate every nook and cranny of your Administration?

Who cannot afford to spend when they do not have to pay? The State of Maine to Illinois pay nearly all the income tax, the solid South but a fraction. This is not so?

How many soldiers did the solid South give the President in his recent call for troops for the war? Scarcely any. They came from the other States which have stood the expense of maintaining their militia.

The South is brave enough and absolutely loyal, but we are dealing with certain facts.

Are you right, Mr. Candidate, in denouncing the orator who merely mentions sectionalism, and also right in organizing it and maintaining it in our national affairs?

How are we going to tell when you really mean what you say?

Four years ago your party planted you squarely on a "single term" plank and specifically pledged you to it. On this plank you appealed for votes.

Why have you repudiated this personal and party obligation? Is that your idea of honorable action? Why are you running again? You have never answered this question. Why this silence?

How can we tell when you mean what you say?

Why did you reverse yourself on Bryan? You knew he was unfitted for high office. You even wanted him "knocked into a cocked hat." And yet you took him to your bosom and gave him the highest office at your command.

# NOTABLE TRIUMPH OF SCIENCE.

THIS paragraph, extracted from the columns of last evening's newspaper, we think worthy of publication here because of the great scientific triumph it records:

"WASHINGTON, Oct. 16.—The special train bearing the Italian and Argentine Ambassadors and ten carloads of Washington's citizens arrived this morning from Newport and Northern summering places.

"The train bore a number of children and was chartered to avoid passing through New York city. Fear of infantile paralysis caused the formation of the train."

Unquestionably, the authorities, national, State and local, who procured the hysteria that dictated the chartering of this special train are gratified by the results of their zealous labors. This incident demonstrates the panic fear they were able to bring about by their exertions last summer.

The Van Cortlandt Golf Links. When Park Commissioner Thomas W. Whittle said that the Van Cortlandt Park course "is the best public golf course in the world" he must have known that his remark would be challenged. To a dyed in the wool golfer it all depends. Perhaps it was his club, his faithless caddy or the talkative party behind him; but more likely it was the links that caused him to lose. While he would not confess it, he is as fond of grievances as the old time tramp printer.

Professional matches have been played at Van Cortlandt. This would seem to indicate that the course is above the average. The objections have been that the links are too crowded, that the "fair green" is bare in some places and that the courtesies of the game are not always observed. When the number of players is considered these are faults which might be expected and which are likewise found on the grounds of well regulated private golf clubs.

It might be possible that Commissioner Whittle speaks so enthusiastically from his own experience and that his interrogator, who asked if there was any plan contemplated for the improvement of golfing facilities at Van Cortlandt Park, might not have fared so well.

"A good course, Sandy?" "Nae, mon, th' we're bit o' turf at th' ninth hole 'n' th' hole."

As we said, it all depends.

Very Frank; Very Sincere. WILSON composed the phrases about American and neutral rights, international law, humanity, and uttered them against the German murderers of American citizens; and BRYAN sneaked around to DENMAN assuring him that they were mere words, for home consumption, not to be treated seriously.

WILSON assailed the hyphenated citizens with a vigor that seemed almost sincere; and GUNN SHOE BILL STONE turned up in a beer hall, vainly seeking to placate the hyphenated citizen, assuring them that Wilson's friend, the guardian of their interests, their refuge in trouble.

Let us have from Shadow Lawn another essay very frank, very sincere, revealing those corpuses in shouting shape.

An Episode. The two men who were part of the long line that had formed to shake hands with Tom Brown walked into the cell block in silence. They did not say anything to each other until they were in their cubicle and the guard had thrown a lever, locking the door. Then they lay on their double-decked cot. Not even Tom Brown had been able to give every man a nook by himself. At length the upper one murmured:

"What's he quitting for anyway? I can't make it out. I thought he was our friend."

"Politics," grumbled softly the man underneath. "They won't let him alone. He can't do as he likes in his own jail."

"Well, it's his own fault, this," said the first man. "The Governor was with him. He put LEARY out in the cell block that tried to run this place has been licked. The warden's not playing fair. What is to become of us?"

"He don't think of that," explained the under man. "He hasn't got it in him to buckle down to a quiet, hard fight. He is one of those six round and no decision fellers. Look what

# WARDEN HOMER DID UP AT GREAT MEADOW! BUT YOU NEVER READ COLMANS ABOUT HOMER IN THE PAPER.

"HOMER had a better plant," said the man above.

"It ain't the plant. It is the man!" retorted the lower berth fiercely. "Osnorke had let some of our crowd go too far. It's hurt the good in his work. His methods are bad. His advertising was bad. You can't advertise a jail."

"What we want is decent treatment, decent grub, plenty of work and a chance to come to our senses. We don't want baseball games with out-siders, we don't want a fancy store, nor a court of justice, nor elections, nor prison politics, nor a bank, nor token money, nor moving pictures, nor favors for the clever ones. I tell you, it's a good thing he's going! I hope the next man will cut out the Mutual Welfare League, cut out the 'poor victim of society' stuff, cut out the vying visitors, cut out all these things that make a feller feel he's being unjustly. If I was society and I caught a man robbing a house like I done I'd give him five years—and so would you."

"Of course," said the upper man. "It's been all messed up here—no doubt about that. CHARLEY WHITMAN sent me here, but say, I'd rather have him boss this jail than any one else I know! He may be hard, but he keeps his sense of what is fitting—and he's square too. Why, when I was on trial—"

The footsteps of the guard, approaching, silenced him. When the guard had gone by he whispered cautiously: "JIM, JIM!" But the man below had his head buried in his arm and did not answer.

"You see it's this way," says Uncle SAM, referring to the Administration. "The President has eight fingers and only two fists."

The Democratic campaign managers can't keep NORMAN HARPOOD quiet even on Sundays.

Before November 7 the British lion may confidently expect a Tail Twisting Day at Shadow Lawn.

Can it be that Tammany cooks are spolling the Wilson brot?

KING CONSTANTINE of Greece has refused to permit the Greek Chamber of Deputies to convene. He lacks a courageous dictator. A subservient Congress may be used, if an autocrat is daring and adroit, greatly to his advantage.

Why should high wages delude a workman into the belief that he is prospering when their purchasing power is steadily decreasing?

President WILSON must long at times for some bulwark to save him from his friends. President DENMAN, returned on the Lafayette, recovered from slight wounds received in service. DENMAN told of a bullet that penetrated his jacket, struck his wallet in an inside pocket and stopped within the thickness of a folded American \$2 bill interposed between it and his flesh.—FROM THE EVENING SUN.

Mr. PICKER, it is safe to assume, will not be a factor in the coming election. The word "curious" is numbered among those words superlatives include the curious belief that \$2 bills bring bad luck to the possessor.

An electric oven which plays a phonograph while baking is exhibited in the Electric Building. But if you dance to the music won't it make the bread heavy?

While Mr. WILSON is talking about the Old Guard it is timely to recall that the Old Guard dies but never surrenders.

What a comfort to know that JOSEPHUS can rescue the victims of German submarines! Not so long ago he could not even rescue American citizens at Tampico.

Is a vote for WILSON a vote for HARPOOD?

Stable and Unstable Equilibrium. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: There are 38,000 whites of voting age in North Carolina. About 130,000 of them have never voted. Democracy's high water mark is 150,000. About 115,000 of the white population are voters. Most of the Republican voters are in the middle and western parts of the State, where there are few or no negroes. The Democrats have carried nearly all the eastern counties by appeals to race prejudice. They tell the white people that they voted the Republican ticket because they were in office over them. The Democrats also denounce reconstruction days.

This year these arguments seem to have failed completely. The Democratic newspapers and Democratic speakers fail to arouse enthusiasm. The Democrats spend their time in bragging about Wilson, thanking God for him and asserting that he kept us out of war. They also say he put up the price of cotton and tobacco! The Republicans are presenting with what force they can the same arguments that Republicans present with hardly any success. With much activity on the stump as usual, except in western North Carolina. The Democratic orators are hustling as if their lives depended upon this election. The people, however, are not aroused.

A Republican meeting was held on a cold night in the North Carolina State Capitol on October 12. The Republican candidates for Governor and for Congress and the Hughes electors, with the aid of a barbecue, drew a crowd estimated by the local Democratic newspaper at between 2,500 and 3,000. Many of the most intelligent and well-to-do members of both counties sat or stood through the entire proceedings and seemed to enjoy them. Not a word of disorder was uttered. The speeches were good and in no sense offensive to good taste. One feature entirely new for this section was the presence of a hundred or more ladies. There were only four negroes.

# THE OLD TRAPPER IS CATCHING IT.

INQUIRERS OF JESSE BENTLEY MUST SEND STAMP HEREFTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: I should like to ask if your Journal can be made to print a letter from me. I have been completely snowed out with letters and postcards from your readers in the past few days from all parts of the world; and they still come by the wholesale asking all sorts of questions. About five or six hundred enclosed postages. If you gentlemen will be so kind as to enclose return postage I shall try to do my best and send prompt replies.

Many ask about living close to nature and all that sort of thing. One can live in the woods six months at a time if he is onto his job. There are camps, traps, game, herbs for tea, roots and various kinds for food, and snags, roots that can be dug and eaten in a raw state, roots to be boiled or baked, as potatoes are, that make good wholesome food.

All this is new to you city people I suppose, but very simple for me, as I am a man of the woods and cannot be left alone, for you city editors will hunt up and dig a feller out.

JESSE BENTLEY, Old Trapper.

ARLINGTON, VT., October 14.

# GERMAN U-BOAT RAIDERS.

TWO Examples That Our Naval Officers Should Not Follow.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: It was a fortunate thing that the naval officers present at the German submarine operations off Nantuxet recently were not of the type of General John A. Dix, commander of the army district along the Atlantic coast in 1864 at the time of the famous Confederate raid on the town of St. Albans, Vt., which resulted in the robbing of a million dollars, in the firing upon innocent citizens, of whom one was killed, the burning of several houses. Unlike our naval officers off Nantuxet, General Dix took it upon himself, without consulting the Government, to issue an order directing all military commanders on the frontier, in case of further acts of depredation and murder, to shoot down the houses or the persons acting under commissions from the rebel authorities at Richmond, and further instructing them, if necessary, with a view to capture, to cross the border between the United States and Canada in prisoners to the local authorities.

This order of Dix gave great satisfaction at Richmond, where Confederate officials hailed it as possibly involving us in war with England. But in spite of General Dix's good intentions President Lincoln required him to revoke the instruction.

Another important incident about the same time as the St. Albans raid involved a naval officer. He was Captain Napoleon Collins, commanding the corvette Wachusett, who sailed the harbor of Bahia, Brazil, escaped the fire of a Brazilian warship and sailed with his prize to Hampton Roads. The Government of Brazil protested against Collins's seizure and demanded reparations. Collins was dismissed and the flag of Brazil was hoisted on the corvette.

Secretary Seward, after rebuking the Brazilian Government for harboring the Florida, announced that it was not for captains of ships of war or commanders of their armies, or consuls residing in foreign ports, acting without the authority of their Government, to seize property of another nation, and without even executive direction, and choosing their own time, manner and occasion, to assert the rights and redress the wrongs of the country.

We shall be fortunate, indeed, if we escape entanglement in the present European tumult through the unauthorized proceeding of those carried away by patriotic fervor alone.

ISAAC MARKENS.

NEW YORK, October 14.

# NORTH CAROLINA POLITICS.

THE Voters Seem Indifferent to the Old Democratic Stock Arguments.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: There are 38,000 whites of voting age in North Carolina. About 130,000 of them have never voted. Democracy's high water mark is 150,000. About 115,000 of the white population are voters. Most of the Republican voters are in the middle and western parts of the State, where there are few or no negroes. The Democrats have carried nearly all the eastern counties by appeals to race prejudice. They tell the white people that they voted the Republican ticket because they were in office over them. The Democrats also denounce reconstruction days.

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With a fair, open presentation of national and State issues and the absence from the minds of the ignorant of prejudice against negroes, North Carolina, in point of fact, is the best territory for the lowering of our percentage of illiterates and it certainly will do so. The people know that a Democratic Administration does not put their business.

T. T. HICKS.

HENDERSON, N. C., October 14.

# A Victim of Politics.

FROM THE Kansas City Times.

W. M. Roberts, jury clerk at the Wyandotte court house, after sixty-three years of life spent without the knowledge of the comfort of an after dinner smoke, began using tobacco yesterday.

"So many political claims," he explained to his four sons and three brothers, "were thrust at me each day I could no longer resist."

Mr. Roberts long has denounced tobacco and warned his sons against the habit.

# CANCER AND THE X-RAYS.

THERE is nothing that can be described as quite new or unexpected in the reports of cancer following exposure to X-rays. These accidents have occurred, but they are not as common as they were formerly, when the present devices for protecting the operator and young cells and seeds, the growth of which is arrested and greatly stunted, with ultimate destruction. Similarly, on the corpuscles it exerts strong but curiously opposite effects. The white corpuscles are affected by the X-rays, but the red resist the action of the rays and are not affected. These actions on growing cells and on the white corpuscles are among the explanations of the effects on cancer, which is in a sense a collection of cells; in fact, an abnormal development of a peculiar kind of cell. The effects are by no means confined to the covering of the body, the skin; some internal organs, notably the lungs and spleen, and even the mouth, are susceptible. The nervous system, composed of delicate tissue, is not much affected. The eye is an exception and should be protected from the rays of a tube, even the X-rays, strictly speaking, are invisible, possessing the property of passing through solid bodies.

Regarding the question of protection against the rays, the operator should always wear a pair of rubber gloves and aprons, and particularly likely to be affected. The dangers of cancer and dermatitis without such protection are definite. Most of the serious cases of disease caused by exposure to intense rays have been due to certain mistakes that have been made. One of these risks is involved in the habit of using the hand as a test of the power of the rays to penetrate the tissues and throw a picture on a suitable plate. Another custom is the wholly inexcusable one of allowing the rays to shine through the chest to demonstrate the position of the lungs and heart. The body should always be protected by lead sheathing when the rays are used.

Accidents, when precautions are taken, are happily rare, and those who know the rays of old will probably agree that they will be even rarer in the future.

# THE WAR OF THE POTATOES.

Polite and Effective Reply From the Yaff Family.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: It is seldom that I get into the Northern society. Your climate is uncongenial to me, so much so that I cannot make my home in the North, and I simply go all to pieces under the hardships of travel, so that I am unable even to visit you all. Being so little known, I realize that it is through ignorance that Mr. J. Smith maligns my "pumpkin patch." You find it in my heart to forgive him. But in the interests of fairness we should set right before the public.

I am, sir, the proud member of one of our most cultivated Southern families, the Dioceses, but known among my family as the "pumpkin patch." You doubtless have met my charming young lady relative, the morning glory. I would thank you to judge me by her rather than by my rugged but, I fear, dry and ill bred kin, the common sweet potato, particularly the New Jersey variety, the "pumpkin patch." You would be ashamed to say, having robbed this collateral branch of our house of all the kindly juices, the sweetness, the mellowness of disposition, the amenability and adaptability of character which show to advantage under any sort of intelligent treatment, and even of the rich, swarthy complexion which is the birthright of our house.

As to the name "potato," although we of the South seldom hear ourselves called by the title, undoubtedly we are entitled to the appellation. Mr. Smith may ascertain, if he is interested, that the word comes from the Hagan "batata," which the natives of the island guided but fertile land applied to our ancestors. Only long afterward did man begin to apply the word to the Solanaceae, an honest tribe, no doubt, but plebeian.

Yours, baked, broiled, boiled, candied or in pie, YAFFEN YAM.

ORLEANS, LA., October 14.

# FOUND!

The Beach Plunk Follows the Fashion and Goes Inland in the Fall.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: Beach plunk can be bought all the fall at Lakewood and other sandy places in New Jersey. Write to any grocer at Lakewood.

T. G. B.

NEW YORK, October 14.

# The United States, Great Britain and Japan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: I assume from the tone of the communication which you printed on October 13 from Mr. E. J. Butler that he must have taken exception to some remarks of mine which appeared in THE SUN last spring, wherein I asserted that the United States had been protected by the British navy. I did not see his letter.

It seems that Mr. Butler is anxious to know whether the British navy would protect the United States in case of war with Japan. Plainly, this question implies that in Mr. Butler's judgment, under the conditions referred to, the United States would need protection. Of course we ought to be able to protect ourselves. It is humiliating to feel that a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress have succeeded in keeping our navy down to a point of weakness and inefficiency where it could hardly hope to cope successfully with the navy of Japan.

It is my opinion that the British Government, if the occasion should ever arise, would advise Japan that an attack on the United States would be regarded as a decidedly unfriendly act. In point of fact, it is the British navy that has protected Great Britain, and the world for that matter, since the Central Powers started this barbarous war of conquest.

Whatever the past may have been, England now by reason of mutual interests, language and customs is the natural ally of the United States.

NEW YORK, October 16.

# Venus Valga Again.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—SIR: And how does "V. H." know that "nearly all the low bodged women in New York wear short skirts?" The general public does know, however, that nearly all the money in New York is made through the canal American wheat, corn and barley and Canadian wheat,

# NEW YORK'S FUTURE AND THE BARGE CANAL.

Observations on the Requirements of This Great Terminal for Handling the Grain Tonnage.

The State and the city of New York are on the eve of one of the greatest commercial events in their history. What the original Erie Canal did for the State and the city of old New York the barge canal will do for modern New York, yet the city of New York is as totally unprepared to handle the bulk of the eastbound tonnage which will flow there from the barge canal when it is opened as the country was to repel a foreign invasion before any move was made for defense.

This country will be a large exporter of grain for many years to come, except in occasional years of crop failure. The idea that our population is increasing so fast that we shall consume all our own crops is a fallacy. The educational campaign to develop good farming has already added millions of bushels of grain to our crops.

It is only in its infancy,